Strengthening PDS

901. DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDYWill the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the States to strengthen public distribution system by ensuring authentic identification of below poverty line families;

(b) if so, whether Government have received frequent complaints about diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS;

(c) if so, the States from which such complaints have been received;

(d) to what extent States have taken steps to improve public distribution system for families living below poverty line; and

(e) whether reports have been obtained from those States who have taken steps to improve the PDS supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a)Yes, Sir. As per the Public Distribution System Control Order, 2001, State Government have been asked to formulate suitable guidelines for the purpose of identification of families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL), as per the estimates adopted by the Central Government and also to ensure that the families so identified are really the poor.

(b) and (c) The implementation of TPDS is the Joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest Principal Distribution Center of FCI in each State/UT, the identification of BPL families, issue of ration cards and issue of licences to the fair price shops and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UTs. Government have received occasionally complaints in this respect and these have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for appropriate action.

(d) and (e) The reform of the PDS to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process and various measures have been taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations to address the issues, with respect to identification of families, availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Sops, distribution of foodgrains etc.